

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SP-02 HA-05 IO-13 EB-08
SS-15 L-03 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /062 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, ET, US

SUBJECT: CRS SUPPORT TO ASMARA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2601

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REFTEL BUT REMAINS DUBIOUS ABOUT USG PARTICIPATION IN CRS SUPPORT TO ASMARA, INCLUDING PROVISION OF TITLE II COMMODITIES. CONCERN HERE IS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF FOOD WILL FIND ITS WAY INTO MILITARY HANDS. DEPTOFF RECALLS THAT TITLE II FOOD SENT TO ERITREA IN LATE 1974 DISAPPEARED INTO ARMY HANDS IN EARLY 1975. IT WAS DECIDED THEN THAT NO FURTHER TITLE II WOULD GO INTO ERITREA UNTIL EFFECTIVE REPORTING PROCEDURES WERE ESTABLISHED. DEPTOFF ALSO RECALLS THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE VERY POOR RECORD FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN ASMARA REGION AND THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ARMY SEIZURES OF DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL FOOD DONATIONS.

2. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPARTMENT IS SKEPTICAL THAT CRS

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ETHIOPIAN STAFF WOULD REPRESENT EFFECTIVE MONITORS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION SINCE WE DOUBT THEY WOULD FEEL FREE REPORT DIVERSIONS. WE HAVE SIMILAR DOUBTS ABOUT POSSIBLE USE FOR THIS PURPOSE OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS RESIDENT IN ASMARA UNDER CONTRACT TO CRS. WE ASSUME THAT SENDING OF NON-ETHIOPIAN CRS PERSONNEL INTO ASMARA IS EITHER NOT PERMITTED BY PMGSE OR IS NOT CONSIDERED ADVISABLE.

WE ARE, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS
EMBASSY/USAID MAY HAVE FOR REDUCING OUR DOUBTS TO
ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY
COMMENT ON POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IF WE WERE TO DECLINE
TO CONTRIBUTE TO CRS PROJECT IN ASMARA. WOULD POSSIBLE
ADVERSE REACTION BE MITIGATED BY US CONCENTRATION ON WOLLO
AND LOCUST PROBLEM RATHER THAN POLITICALLY-DIFFICULT
ASMARA RELIEF SCHEME? WE FAVOR IMMEDIATE US ACTION ON
FORMER. WE HAVE RESERVATION ABOUT ASMARA. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780663/aaaaccrv.tel
Line Count: 71
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3b7bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Subject: CRS SUPPORT TO ASMARA
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, ET, US
To: ADDIS ABABA
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